

John White Bio

John White began his career in education as an English teacher at William L. Dickinson High School in Jersey City, New Jersey.

He then went to work for Teach for America (TFA) in New Jersey, where he coached and mentored new TFA recruits before becoming Executive Director of TFA-Chicago two years later. Under White's leadership, TFA-Chicago doubled the number of teachers recruited to work in South Side and West Side schools, and the organization established one of the most innovative principal training programs in the country, matching successful TFA teachers with Harvard University and the Chicago Public School System for training as principals. Sixty TFA graduates are currently working as principals in Chicago schools.

In 2006, John White was asked by New York City Chancellor Joel Klein to join the senior leadership team of the largest school district in the country. There White served as Deputy Chancellor of Talent, Labor and Innovation, leading negotiations for the city with the United Federation of Teachers, implementing a citywide teacher effectiveness system, and negotiating New York State's bid for Race to the Top (R2T). Additionally, as Deputy Chancellor, White launched and led the Innovation Zone, a network of 100 21st Century schools that use technology to personalize student learning.

Prior to being named Deputy Chancellor, White served as Chief Executive Officer for NYC's Portfolio Division, leading the city's efforts to turn around more than 100 failing schools and start 500 new charter and district schools.

White became Superintendent of the Louisiana Recovery School District in May 2011, where he launched "12 commitments to the city of New Orleans." The district made good on each commitment, overhauling the remaining failing schools in the RSD, establishing a unified enrollment system, and expanding the New Orleans school construction program to ensure that every school building in Orleans Parish would be rebuilt or renovated.

White was named State Superintendent of education in January of 2012 and soon thereafter launched Louisiana Believes, the state's plan to put every child on the path toward college and career.

White is a 2010 member of the Broad Superintendents Academy. He received a B.A. in English with distinction from the University of Virginia and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University.

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